

# REASONS

Offer'd against

## PUSHING

FOR THE

## REPEAL

OF THE

*Corporation and Test Acts:*

Together with

Some *QUERIES* upon that Important Affair:

As also,

A Few Words of *Advice* to the *PUSHING*  
*DISSENTERS*: Occasioned by a certain Pa-  
per dispersed at a late General Meeting, enti-  
tuled, *Reasons for Pushing, &c.*

---

*By a* PROTESTANT DISSENTER, *a Friend to*  
*Truth, Peace and Liberty.*

---

O Tempora ! O Mores !

---

LONDON:

Printed for J. ROBERTS, at the *Oxford Arms*, in *Warwick-lane*,  
E. NUTT at the *Royal Exchange*, and A. DODD without  
*Temple-Bar*. 1732. Price Two-Pence.

REASONS



REASONS

WOULD not have any to  
 imagine that I am against the  
 Reform or rather Expansion  
 of the Corporation and  
 Test Acts: far from it. No  
 one can be more desirous than myself  
 to have the Protestant Dissenters  
 freed of every Clog and Inconvenience  
 but let every thing be done decently and  
 in order. Have a Care of menacing ei-  
 ther Ministry or Parliament: don't  
 swell too big with a Conceit of your su-  
 perior Interest and Influence in the King-  
 dom, or carry up your Petition to a





## REASONS, &c.



WOULD not have any to imagine that I am against the *Repeal*, or rather *Explication* of the CORPORATION and TEST ACTS ; far from it. No one can be more desirous than myself, to have the PROTESTANT DISSENTERS eased of every *Clog* and *Incumbrance* ; but let every thing be done *decently* and *in order*. Have a Care of menacing either MINISTRY or PARLIAMENT ; don't swell too big with a Conceit of your superior Interest and Influence in the KINGDOM, or carry up your *Petition* to a *Claim*.

We will allow it to be a Hardship upon the *Protestant Dissenters*, that a LAW which was directly levell'd against the PAPISTS, and on that Account, in a Time when the CHURCH was really in Danger, readily given into by the *Protestant Dissenters*, yet, that the Edge of this LAW should, for so many Years, be turned against the said *Dissenters*.

We will grant that the *Protestant Dissenters* as ENGLISHMEN and Friends to our happy ESTABLISHMENT have a Right to equal *Civil Privileges*, with the rest of His MAJESTY'S Faithful Subjects; and it were to be wished that there appear'd to be more of a Spirit of Religion, Honour and Liberty among those of the *Established Church*, that they themselves would move for this *Repeal*, and it is to be hoped such a Spirit begins to appear among them.

I am perswaded that the taking of the SACRAMENT of the *Lord's Supper* as a *Test*; or Qualification for *Civil Offices*, is contrary to the Design of the first INSTITUTE of it; but far be it from me to affirm at whose Door the Evil of this Prostitution lies. I am satisfied that this has been a great *Stumbling Block* in the way of *Infidels*; that it has long been complain'd of by the sober *Clergy* as a Hardship upon them; that the obliging of  
Persons



Persons thus to qualify themselves for a Post of Honour or Profit under the Government, is placing a great Number of His MAJESTY's Loyal Subjects under an Incapacity of serving their *King and Country*; because they dare not do Violence to their Consciences, by taking the Sacrament as a Test. And therefore, methinks to attempt the Removal of this sad *Obstacle* would be a Province well becoming the *Right Reverend the Bishops*, to enter into, both as they are PATRONS of *Christianity* and LORDS in *Parliament*. And if ever it be done to Advantage, the Motion must, as I conceive, be first from the *Right Reverend Bench*. But when they may have it in their Hearts to do this Piece of good Service to Religion I cannot tell: However, I am not for Protestant Dissenters pushing so violently for the Repeal at this Juncture, because,

1. I cannot think it would be for the Peace of the *Nation* in general to push it now. Nor.

2. Can I conceive that it would be for the true Interest of the *Protestant Dissenters* themselves.

It is true that we are, (under the Influence of the best of *KINGS*, and under the wise

wise and noble Conduct of a steady *Ministry*,) in a State of profound *Peace* both *Abroad* and at *Home*: God grant that it may be lasting, and that nothing may arise to interrupt it, but let it be observed that our being in a State of *Peace Abroad* does not prove that at *Home* our *Peace* may not be broken; and may sometimes give a favourable Opportunity to *Male-content*s to foment Divisions, and create Jealousies and Animosities among ourselves. In a Time of *War*, all Eyes and Hands are turned against the common Enemy, and every one is consulting the Honour and Safety of his Country without Distinction; and therefore a Time of *Peace Abroad* is the most likely Time for *Party-designing Men* at *Home*, to oppose and endeavour to distress one another. Now, whether at the End of a *Septennial Parliament*, such a Push as many of the *Dissenters* are so strenuous, nay, even mad, for; is not likely to throw the *NATION* into such a Ferment; as may, at the next *Election* for *Members of Parliament*; greatly endanger the Choice of such Representatives as are *Friends* both to the *Government* and *You*, is no difficult Thing to determine.

But supposing it must be a Push after all; The Hot-headed and Imprudent among the *Dissenters* will have it to be so; what's

what's the Consequence of this? either there is a Probability of gaining your Point, or not? that there is not you have been told by the *Committee of Gentlemen* in *LONDON*, who had the *Affair* under Consideration, and whose almost unanimous Opinion after mature Deliberation, ought to have been taken without any farther impertinent Harangues. But you will say, Now or never, now is the Time, the long expected Time; push it now and you cannot miss. Well, you are to have the *Repeal* it seems, but pray by what Interest, of the *WHIGGS* or *TORIES*? not of the *Whiggs*, because you are well informed that you cannot reasonably under present Circumstances, and at this Juncture expect it this Way. If from the *Tories*, you need not be told that *they* have been always *Enemies* both to Your *Religious and Civil Rights*; and therefore whatever Pretences of Friendship they may now make to you, one may wink and yet see, that it is not your *Happiness*, but their own *Interest* they are aiming at, by endeavouring, through the fallacious Overture of standing your *Friends* in obtaining the *Repeal*, to raise a *Tumult* in the *NATION* at the next *Election*; to play you against the present *Administration*; and so, if possible, procure a *Parliament* that would endeavour



deavour to distress our KING and his *Administration*, and thereby find an easy Way of suppressing and destroying *You*: for that this Whim of Pushing just at this Time, was at first concerted, and is since encouraged by the Anti-ministerial FACTION, wants no Proof. The Manner of carrying it on, and the Person who would put himself at the Head of it, both in *City* and *Country*, makes this abundantly evident. Thus, have I given you my Reasons in general for not pushing the *Repeal* at this Time; only remember farther, that the Tories and those in Alliance with them understand that Maxim, *Divide & impera*.

Now before you are entred into too hasty Measures, permit me as a FRIEND to lay before you a few *Queries*.

- I. Whether the Interest and Influence of those of the National Church, who are well affected to the present Government is not equal, if not superior to Your's?
- II. Whether your Pushing for the *Repeal* at this Time, has not a Tendency to disconcert and divide that Interest, by disgusting a great Number of those, who used to be unanimous against the High Church in voting with you?

III. Whe-



III. Whether, supposing the *Administration* should favour your Petition, and thereby disoblige many of their Friends; your Interest will be sufficient to counterballance such a Loss?

IV. Whether the *Administration* are most obliged to you, or you to them? If you are most obliged to them, which no thinking Man can deny: then must it not be a most rash and preposterous Thing, for you to push an Affair of this Nature, without the Encouragement of their *Assistance*, yea, against their *Advice*?

V. Whether it is not more prudent to wait till your *BEST Friends*, shall judge it proper to attempt this *Repeal*: then, by pushing this Matter now, to disoblige them, and gratify their and your *Enemies*?

VI. Whether it be adviseable, or grateful for you to fly in the Face of those, who have always approved themselves to be your best *Friends*; and to throw yourselves into the Arms of your *Enemies*?

VII. Whether you can imagine that the Anti-ministerial *Faction*, most of which are *Tories*, do sincerely design any real or lasting Advantage to you by encouraging you to push for the *Repeal* at this Time?

B

VIII. Whe-

VIII. Whether, supposing the Push be now made, and the Tories should vote in your Favour, you would not poll, at the next Election of Members of Parliament, for such only as voted for the Repeal? The Malignant Consequence of which I need not tell you.

IX. Whether it would not shew a noble Attachment to His Majesty's Person and Government, unanimously and with Disdain to reject an Expedient, however advantageous it may appear to You, that is designedly calculated to oppose them?

X. Whether it be prudent to hazard so many valuable Privileges that you now enjoy, for the Sake of Pushing that which, if you obtain it, will be of little Advantage to you as a Religious Body?

XI. Whether it is not more likely to answer your End, unanimously to join with others of your Friends of the Established Church, at the Beginning of a new Parliament, then furiously of your own Heads to push it near the Expiration of an old one?

XII. Whether a certain Irish L-d, who, if common Report may be credited, betrayed your Civil Rights in the Beginning of the Reign of His late Majesty, KING GEORGE of Glorious Memory, when

when you might have obtained the *Repeal*, you are now so zealously struggling for, had he not told the KING to this Effect, that you did not desire it:

A Person who has disconcerted and divided you in your Religious Character, and in a way greatly to the Dishonour of the *Protestant Dissenters*: a Person who, for what Reasons you need not be told, is justly neglected in a religious and political Respect, and has little Weight in Publick Affairs: a Person who designs, if he can to make himself *significant* by forwarding this *Poultreian* SCHEME, for so I call your Pushing Design, is a fit Person to conduct such an Affair as this is, wherein the Stability of His Majesty's Government, the Peace of the Kingdom, and the Honour and Security of the *Protestant Dissenters* are so much concerned?

However weak and impertinent you may think these Reasons and Queries to be; till they are fully and fairly answered, I must beg Leave to *protest* against Pushing for the *Repeal* of the *Corporation* and *Test Acts*, till a more favourable Opportunity shall offer itself. In the meantime suffer me to offer my *Humble Advice*,  
That,



That, as you value the *Favour* of our most Gracious KING, the *Peace* and *Prosperity* of the KINGDOM, and the invaluable *Liberties* we as *Protestant Dissenters* enjoy under a wise and glorious *Administration*; you would unanimously desist from such a rash and dangerous *Expedient*, as *Pushing for the Repeal* at this *Time*, and that you would discover a generous *Gratitude* and noble *Zeal* for the best of *Princes* by joining with Heart and Hand, in *Conjunction* with Your old and approved *FRIENDS* of the *Established Church* at the next Election for Members of *Parliament*, to chuse such *Representatives* as are zealously attached to the *Present Government*, and undisguised *Friends* to *Liberty*; by which Means alone you may reasonably hope for some happy future *Time*, wherein You may with *Honour* and *Security* obtain what You are now rashly and vainly attempting.

*F I N I S.*